

(b) Unless otherwise ordered, measures referred to the Committee shall be referred by the clerk of the Committee to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

14. Except as otherwise specified herein, the Standing Rules of the Senate shall govern the actions of the Committee. Each subcommittee of the Committee is part of the Committee, and is therefore subject to the Committee's rules so far as applicable.

15. *Powers and Duties of Subcommittees.*—Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full Committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen, after consultation with Ranking Minority Members of the subcommittees, shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of full Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

ACKNOWLEDGING STARTUP OF THE IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge a new beginning with significance not only for the State of Idaho, but for the entire Nation. I am speaking of the February 1, 2005, formal launch of the new Idaho National Laboratory.

At the direction of the administration, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and the Argonne National Laboratory-West, two esteemed research facilities that have served this country so well for over 55 years, are being combined to pursue even greater research and development heights as a single, cohesive enterprise. The new laboratory in Idaho has an unmatched foundation on which to pursue its Department of Energy-assigned vision of international nuclear leadership for the 21st century, compelling contributions in national and homeland security technology development, and execution of a broad supporting science and technology portfolio.

Idaho is the place where the first usable amount of electricity from nuclear energy was generated. It is where the propulsion system for the first nuclear-powered submarine was developed. And it is where 52 mostly first-of-their-kind, nuclear reactors were designed and constructed. Looking ahead, it is clearly a place well-qualified to implement the technology-based components of the national energy policy our Nation needs and that I hope this body will act on this year.

The new Idaho National Laboratory is being managed by a team that draws expertise from companies and academic institutions across the Nation. The Battelle Energy Alliance is led by Battelle Memorial Institute of Ohio. Its partners include BWX Technologies of Virginia, Washington Group International of Idaho, the Electric Power Research Institute of California and a Massachusetts Institute of Technology led national consortium of universities

including North Carolina State University, Ohio State University, Oregon State University, the University of New Mexico, and Idaho's three research universities—Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho.

The competition for managing the lab brought out the highest caliber of teams. With the Battelle Energy Alliance, we have a truly extraordinary national team, committed to collaborating broadly to ensure our collective interests in energy security, homeland security and economic security are well served by the new Idaho National Laboratory.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GABRIEL PATRICIO

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel R. Patricio, who is concluding a 24-year career of dedication and excellence in the United States Marines. At the Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, VA in recent years, he has had a leading role in modernizing combat clothing and equipment to make troops faster, more efficient, lighter and safer in battle. Colonel Patricio's talents have produced the most significant upgrade in individual clothing and combat equipment for Marines in more than 50 years.

Colonel Patricio's ability to think outside-the-box served him well in finding better ways to solve old problems. His innovative ideas have reduced the time it takes to move a product from concept to the field; so that life-saving equipment is being made available to Marines more quickly. As an example, he reached across the services to the Army's Research and Development Center in Natick, MA to take advantage of their cutting-edge technology, which is now saving lives in Iraq.

Most recently, Colonel Patricio spearheaded an initiative to develop and field a state-of-the-art, on-the-move water purification and hydration system. Under his leadership, Systems Command and two private companies pooled their resources and expertise to create a pen-sized device that troops are now using to make local water clean and drinkable.

Colonel Patricio has successfully managed programs to develop and field other products to enhance the safety and performance of our troops in Iraq and elsewhere, including new, lightweight and more protective body armor; new protection for the face and eyes; lightweight helmets; improved load-bearing backpacks; hot weather, lightweight "Jungle/Desert" boots; high performance lightweight and heavyweight Polartec fleece clothing; and specialized mountain and cold-weather clothing, including gloves, boots and jackets.

Colonel Patricio has served the Marines, and the Nation well. I congratulate

him on his many outstanding contributions, and I wish him a long and happy and healthy retirement.

DARFUR

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the United Nations' Commission of Inquiry on the crisis in Darfur reported to the Security Council on Monday of this week. Like every credible account of what has happened in Darfur, the report makes for grim reading. The Commission pointed to the "killing of civilians, torture, enforced disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms of sexual violence" in its discussion of the violations of international law that have occurred in the area, and also found that there may have been Sudanese Government officials and others who acted "with genocidal intent."

This report stands in stark contrast to the positive news that emerged from Sudan last month, when a comprehensive agreement to end the decades-long, devastating north-south civil war was signed. I welcomed that agreement, and I hope it is successful. But the truth is that I have little confidence in the Government of Sudan, and I see no reason to believe that a north-south peace agreement will awaken that government to its responsibility to protect all of its citizens. Just days after the historic peace agreement was signed, I visited the refugee camps of eastern Chad and spoke to Sudanese citizens who had fled Darfur. They spoke of their desperate need for basic security back at home, and they are right. Consistent reports indicate that the violence in Darfur has continued. The Commission of Inquiry's recent report serves to remind all of us, Mr. President, that tragedy persists in Sudan, and the world has not done enough to stop it.

Much of the attention surrounding this report, Mr. President, has focused on the Commission's recommendation that the International Criminal Court, or ICC, take up the Darfur issue with the intention of trying those responsible for atrocities.

Just as the question of whether or not to use the word "genocide" was, for some time, a debate that distracted attention from the need to take meaningful action to bring security to the people of Darfur, I fear that a new issue—the question of whether or not the crimes committed in Darfur should be taken up by the International Criminal Court—may soon dominate the debate.

Mr. President, the administration is implacably opposed to the ICC. Frankly, this is a subject on which the President and I share some common ground. I have not supported joining the ICC as it stands. I want more protection for our troops to ensure that they will not be targets of unjust and politically motivated prosecutions.

But I do believe that it was a mistake to walk off in a huff as the ICC was taking shape. It is hard to protect